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24 June 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Secretariat, Economic Intelligence Committee

FROM : Secretary, EIC Subcommittee on Agriculture

SUBJECT : EIC Subcommittee on Agriculture Annual
Report for FY 1960

A. Activities of the Subcommittee During Fiscal Year.

1. Review of the Intelligence Product in the Subcommittee's Field of Competence.

The Subcommittee discussed the planned economic research programs on Sino-Soviet Bloc agriculture as presented by representatives from the Department of Agriculture, the Department of State and CIA.

2. Research and Collection Deficiencies

a. Research Deficiencies

The Subcommittee updated its statement on "Priority Research Deficiencies on Sino-Soviet Bloc Agriculture"

b. Collection Deficiencies

The Subcommittee has not prepared any Collection Deficiency statements in FY 1960. Late in FY 1959 the Subcommittee reviewed some of the CIA/ORR "Gaps in Information" statements. The Subcommittee found that the statements reviewed had been outdated by subsequent information. The Subcommittee found that these statements, after updating and Subcommittee review and approval, could be appropriate Subcommittee statements, of "Priority Collection Deficiencies".

3. Review of Substantive Papers.

None

4. Review of Proposals for External Research.

The Subcommittee reviewed a proposed extension and expansion of a CIA-sponsored external research contract on Agriculture in Communist China. The Subcommittee members were asked to take into consideration the recommendation of their EIC principals in submitting their comments. In all cases there was either favorable comment, or no comment, on the proposed external research project.

5. Maintenance of Agreed Basic Statistics.

There have been informal discussions among some Subcommittee members on current agricultural production statistics of bloc countries. In most cases there has been substantial agreement.

6. Projects Undertaken at the Request of the EIC or Proposed to the EIC.

None

7. Intelligence Research Techniques.

The techniques of research on the relation of weather to crop yields, has been discussed by some Subcommittee members.

8. Special Coordinating Functions of the Subcommittee

Specialists from the Department of State, the Department of Agriculture, and CIA have regularly discussed the effects of weather on crop production in the bloc countries.

A statement on "Agricultural Statistics of the USSR and East Europe", prepared in support of the U.S. delegate to a meeting of an ECE/FAO Working Party on Agricultural Statistics, was coordinated with specialists of CIA, USDA, and State Department.

9. Evaluation of the Role of the Subcommittee.

Members of the Subcommittee feel that the Subcommittee has been effective as a medium for interagency review and coordination, and as a mechanism for improving economic intelligence research within its field of interest. Nevertheless, it is

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felt that there is a definite need for closer and more frequent inter-agency collaboration on matters of mutual interest at the working level.

B. Future Program of the Subcommittee.

No changes in the structure or in the functioning of the Subcommittee on Agriculture are contemplated for FY 1961.

The Subcommittee should continue to identify gaps in research and collection, approve external research projects, serve as a coordinating body for all agencies and departments having responsibilities in food and agriculture, and serve as a clearing house for information and data on western countries which could be useful in appraising developments in the Sino-Soviet Bloc. The Subcommittee should also be alert to significant developments, activities and situations in the field of food and agriculture throughout the world.

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Chairman
EIC Subcommittee on Agriculture